

Shota 391

Chapter 391 To the capital again

After a few more days, we were finally heading off to the capital.

Scar had wanted to leave as soon as possible, but the dwarves had other plans.

They kept me in the town, forcing me to go to the forge with them for a few days before they finally accepted going to the capital.

As for the reason why...

It was because Scar told them that the best forges were in the capital.

If it wasn't for that, they wouldn't have bothered going to the capital even though they were an ambassador group.

He also looked at me with bitter gazes during these days as if he was blaming me, but I acted like I didn't see them at all.

When we headed off, there was a parade that sent us off.

I was happy to see this because it seemed like the dwarves had made quite a few friends during this time that were sending them off.

The dwarves also were sad to leave this place, which showed that they had formed a connection here.

This would be important for the future...

In case anything happened, my backup plan was the dwarves after all.

I would move into the Dwarven Kingdom if anything happened with this human kingdom I was currently in.

It didn't take us long to travel to the capital this time.

Instead of slowly taking our time, we passed through each of the towns and cities without a problem.

That was because Scar had taken out a royal decree to let us pass.

There were lords that had wanted to stop us when they heard that we came with a group of dwarven ambassadors, but there was nothing that they could do in front of the royal decree.

So in just four days we had reached the capital.

It was also different this time when we arrived.

Last time, we followed the queue to enter the city.

This time, an entire gate had been closed and there was a parade that was prepared.

There was a group of armoured guards that came to escort us through that parade and to the castle.

This was all because we came with the dwarven ambassadors.

But it was clear by the looks on the faces of the dwarves that they didn't like this.

They liked making things rowdy, but when things were too formal like this, it had the opposite effect.

Being guarded by these elite guards made them cautious rather than allowing them to relax.

They would have preferred entering the city at their own pace and then seeing the king when they were ready, but now they were being escorted over. It was almost like they had been turned into zoo animals for the humans to stare at.

If it wasn't for the fact that I was here, they might have already left...

Scar could also see this, so he pushed me forward to talk to them and appease them.

It was a good thing that I was able to calm them down in the end, or else this might have ended very poorly.

Luckily, the guards also didn't stall them for too long and led them right to the castle.

When they arrived, the prime minister himself was actually outside waiting for them.

Other than the king, this was the highest ranking person that could have come out.

And of course, the king wouldn't personally come out to greet the guests even if they were ambassadors from another kingdom.

That was the bottom line when it came to the king's prestige.

So it was the prime minister who stepped up.

It was clear that the kingdom was putting quite the importance on this matter.

As soon as the prime minister saw the carriage coming towards the castle, he immediately stepped forward with a smile on his face.

Then when we came out, he stepped forward to greet the dwarves.

It was just too bad that he had completely misread the situation.

He approached the male dwarves and said, "Welcome, guests from the Dwarven Kingdom. I would like to officially welcome you to our Misfid Kingdom."

That was his one and most important mistake.

This also showed just how unfamiliar he was with the dwarves.

But that couldn't be blamed on him since the dwarves liked to keep to themselves in the first place.

He had assumed that these male dwarves were the ones that led this ambassador group instead of Elsa.

However, could that be blamed on him?

It wasn't that he was looking down on her as a woman, but...

It was a bunch of short hairy men and one little girl.

In this situation, would one assume that the little girl was the one in charge by human standard?

This was the design of that one wicked designer harming the people of this world again.

One of the male dwarves gave a cough before saying, "I think that you've made a mistake here."

The prime minister couldn't help revealing a surprised and confused look when he heard this.

He looked at the other dwarves with the same confused look as he didn't know what was happening here.

What mistake did he make?

Elsa gave a cough and said, "Thank you for the warm welcome. I am Elsa, the leader of this group and the Dwarven King's sister."

When the prime minister heard this, he couldn't help looking at her in shock.

After all, he had thought that she was one of the children of the other dwarves...he never thought that she would be the one leading the ambassador group.

He couldn't help looking at Scar who just gave a nod to confirm it.

After giving a cough to hide his embarrassment, the prime minister quickly recovered as he said with a warm smile, "Miss Elsa, it is an honour to meet you."

He reached his hand out towards her as he said this.

Elsa just took his hand and shook it before saying, "It's an honour to meet you as well."

The prime minister couldn't help revealing an awkward look.

After all he had reached his hand out so that he could kiss her hand...but all he received was a handshake.

It seemed that there was still much for him to learn about dwarven society...

Chapter 392 Another royal audience (1)

The prime minister's eyes couldn't help wandering as he looked at Elsa.

Even though she looked like a child with her big wide brown eyes, fair skin, and long brown hair, her figure was anything like that of a child.

These were bigger than his wife, bigger than any woman that he had seen before.

That hourglass figure on that short body...it really felt illegal...

I could see his wandering eyes, so I couldn't help revealing a smile that had a trace of sympathy in it.

After all, I knew what the prime minister was feeling.

I still cursed that one designer whenever I saw these female dwarves.

I wish that I could send interdimensional mail and send him a few knives in envelopes...

But since I couldn't...I could only accept that this was my new world.

After a long silence, the prime minister gave another cough and said, "Then shall we head in? His majesty is already waiting for us."

Elsa gave a quick nod since she could feel the awkwardness in the air.

The sooner that they went in, the sooner that this would disappear.

As they walked through the halls of the castle, they just walked in silence.

The prime minister would normally have a few things to say as they walked through the halls, but he really felt uncomfortable looking in her direction. And if he didn't look in her direction, he really didn't know which direction to look in.

So the only thing that he could do was look forward and lead the way.

There was no introducing the castle and bragging about how well built it was.

But what he didn't know was that he had just saved himself some embarrassment.

For these dwarves, the craftsmanship of this castle wasn't that great in the first place.

It didn't take them long to reach the throne room, but the prime minister had them stay here for a second before heading in first.

It was after a few minutes that he came back to lead us into the throne room.

As we walked in, there was someone that announced, "Introducing the Dwarven Kingdom's ambassador group."

As soon as we walked in, we immediately became the center of attention.

Compared to last time, there were even more ministers that were standing on the side.

It just went to show just how important this matter was for our kingdom.

Since the prime minister had already gone in to give them a warning, they knew who the leader of this group was and they all looked at Elsa.

She just calmly walked up to the center of the throne room and then gave a slight bow to the king.

The king didn't mind this and just gave a wave of his hand before saying, "Rise."

The dwarves all quickly returned to normal and there was a silence that hung in the air.

No one spoke because both sides were sizing up the other side.

Both sides wanted to learn more about each other, but neither side wanted to give up more information than they were willing to give.

So they were waiting for the other side to engage first.

In the end, it was Elsa who spoke first by saying, "Your highness, I am here on behalf of my brother, the Dwarven King to send his regards. Our country has admired yours for a long time and we wish to open up diplomatic relations."

When her voice fell, there was only silence that followed as all of the ministers stared at her in shock.

This was the last thing that they had expected her to say.

After all, the dwarves were famous for being isolationist against the humans.

It had already been over a century since the last meaningful interaction between the dwarves and the humans.

So it was hard for them to believe that they would suddenly come forward to build relations with their kingdom.

But here they were.

The status of the sister of the Dwarven King meant that this was a princess, so this was not a weak title.

She was definitely worthy of being able to represent the Dwarven King on this matter.

But when the king saw her standing there, he couldn't help being taken aback.

As he just stared at her, the corner of his eyes couldn't help twitching and he turned his gaze slightly as he didn't know where to look.

In the end, he settled for looking up a bit higher than usual so he didn't see what he shouldn't see as he said, "Thank you for coming to our country. It would be our honour to build relations with your Dwarven Kingdom. If there is anything that you need, then please feel free to tell us."

Elsa gave a nod before saying, "For now, we hope that we will be able to continue to work with the talents of your kingdom to develop our forging techniques."

When the ministers and even the king heard this, they couldn't help revealing confused looks.

Talents of their kingdom?

As far as they knew, there was no such thing.

Everyone in the world knew that the dwarves were the best when it came to forging, there was no one that could compare to them when it came to forging techniques.

So how could they want to work with humans when it came to this?

After a moment of being surprised, the king suddenly asked, "Miss Elsa, though you say you wish to work with the talents of our kingdom, I was not aware that we had such talents. Can you please tell us who these talented people are so we can cooperate with you better?"

Elsa was surprised to hear this before turning to look at me and saying, "Of course we're talking about Sir Zwein here."

When they heard this all of them couldn't help looking at me with shocked and confused looks.

All I could do was reveal a bitter smile when I saw this since I had already expected something like this to happen...

Chapter 393 Another Royal Audience (2)

After a long silence, the king gave a cough to calm down before saying with a smile, "I was not aware that Sir Zwein here had this kind of talent."

He then turned to me and asked, "Sir Zwein, is this true?"

I said with a calm look on my face, "It's just a bit of skill, it isn't as exaggerated as Miss Elsa says it is."

The ministers gave a nod as if they agreed with this.

But then Elsa said, "Sir Zwein, there is no need to be humble."

With a wide smile, she turned to look at everyone else in the room and said, "Sir Zwein's abilities are even on par with my brother's. It can be said that Sir Zwein is a true master of the craft."

Once again, there were shocked looks that filled this room after she said this.

The bitter smile that had been on my face before returned and there was even more bitterness to it this time.

The king narrowed his eyes to look at me as he asked, "Is this true, Viscount Zwein?"

This time, he didn't address me as 'sir', but rather called me out by my title.

This was him using his prestige as a king to ask a question now.

I calmly looked up at the king and said, "Your majesty, I just compared notes with the Dwarven King in terms of forging. It isn't as great as Miss Elsa says it is."

But even then, Elsa wouldn't let me go as she said, "Sir Zwein truly is modest. He..."

Before she could say anything else, I suddenly glared at her as if telling her to stop talking.

When Elsa saw this glare, she couldn't help flinching before suddenly revealing a faint blush.

I didn't understand what this blush was, but at the very least, I could let out a sigh of relief since she had stopped talking.

The king also saw this, but he decided not to pursue it for now.

Instead, he turned back to Elsa and asked with a smile, "Miss Elsa, may I ask what kind of relationship you are seeking with our kingdom?"

Elsa took a moment to calm herself and gave a cough before saying, "Your majesty, we are here to request a trade relationship be opened up between our two kingdoms. We will be needing a large amount of stones in the future, so we are hoping that we can buy them from your kingdom in return for ores."

I slightly narrowed my eyes when I heard this.

I had thought that the dwarves would just seek some kind of trivial relationship with their kingdom, but it didn't seem to be the case.

It seemed like the dwarves had already planned for the future.

The stones that they were asking for, it was the key thing that they needed for imprinting runes on weapons.

They were already seeking a source of these stones before they started mass producing these rune weapons, so they wouldn't need to worry about them in the future.

The human kingdoms wouldn't know about this until it's too late, so they would be ripped off while thinking that they had earned a large profit.

I was the only person that was able to see through this in this room, but I didn't say anything in the end.

If I spoke up now, it was certain that I would be involved in this matter and this was the last thing that I wanted.

After hearing what Elsa said, the king also narrowed his eyes. I think you should take a look at

But he had less information than me, so he wasn't able to understand everything.

For the king, all he knew was that this was a strange request from the dwarves.

Before this, the dwarves never would have even considered trading their ores for anything that the humans had.

There were many human kingdoms that had tried to trade with the Dwarven Kingdom, but they had all been rejected by them.

So for the Dwarven Kingdom to suddenly come forward with this request...

It was without a doubt strange.

But the king just couldn't understand what it was.

It had something to do with stones, but what?

He turned to look at me, but I just had a calm look on my face.

Then he turned to look at Scar and Shaka, but they also shook their heads.

Shaka though shook his head a bit more hesitantly since he was putting a few things together...

After seeing this, the king knitted his brows slightly as if he was deep in thought.

Elsa didn't mind this since she understood what he was hesitating over.

This was a first for their Dwarven Kingdom as well, so it was without a doubt a decision that one needed to mull over.

After a long time, the king finally said, "Alright, that's not a problem."

With a pause, the king added, "If I may ask, is there a reason why you're in need of stones? If there is a problem, perhaps our kingdom can help?"

Elsa just shook her head before saying, "This is a matter related to the benefits of our Dwarven Kingdom, so it isn't something that is convenient for us to share."

The king knitted his brows again, but they relaxed soon after as he said with a sigh, "Of course. I hope that I did not offend you by asking this question."

Elsa said with a smile, "Of course not. I hope that we will be able to continue this cooperation for a long time."

The king gave a nod as he said, "Of course, that is our intention as well."

Then he said with a smile, "I'm sure that you are all tired from your journey. Please rest up tonight and let's discuss this further tomorrow."

Elsa gave a nod before also saying with a smile, "Thank you for your concern."

The audience ended there with the king standing up to leave.

But as he left, he turned to look at me, Scar, and Shaka.

It was clear what he was implying with this.

I could already guess what would happen next.

Chapter 394 Private meeting with the king

A few minutes later, we were sitting in a room waiting for someone else to arrive.

As I had expected, one of the servants of the castle came to find the three of us after we left the throne room.

The other servants led the dwarven group to the manor that had been prepared for them.

But for the three of us, we were led to a private room in the castle.

The dwarves were hesitant to go at first, but I was able to convince them to go in the end.

When they left, they couldn't help turning back to look at me like worried lovers...even though they were a bunch of short scruffy men...

That definitely wasn't a sight that I had wanted to see.

But after they were gone, I couldn't help knitting my brows.

It was the same for Scar and Shaka.

All three of us knew that there had to be a special reason that we had been summoned like this and it most likely wasn't a good reason.

However, we didn't really have a choice.

After all, the person who was summoning us was the king.

He was the only one that could command the servants of the castle like this.

If it wasn't him, there was no one else who could summon us like this in this castle.

So it could only be the king who was summoning us.

As I expected, it was the king that walked into the room after we waited for a while.

He didn't even bother greeting us as he walked over to the couch in front of us and sat down.

When we were about to stand up and bow to him, the king just waved his hand and said, "It's fine, just act as you were."

All three of us looked at each other with awkward looks, but we remained sitting in the end.

There was a silence that hung in the air when the king sat down.

He just sat there with narrowed eyes as he looked at us, almost as if he was scoping us up.

But I knew that he was actually looking at me.

After all, this whole thing started with me.

After a long silence, he finally said, "What's the damage?"

I didn't say anything and just left it to Scar.

When Scar heard this, he took out a piece of paper that he had in his pocket the whole time and placed it on the table.

The king took it and looked it over before turning to me to say, "How much?"

I calmly looked back at him and said, "Half."

The king once again narrowed his eyes to look at me for a bit before slowly giving a nod as if he accepted this.

Both Scar and I couldn't help being taken aback when we saw this.

After all, neither of us had expected the king to accept this so easily.

Then he asked, "Will you sell the rest?"

I slowly gave a nod.

He looked down at the piece of paper and asked, "At the price listed here?"

Once again I gave a slow nod.

The king gave a nod this time and said, "Alright, that's acceptable."

Once again, I was surprised by this.

The negotiations seemed like they were going too smoothly...

But that meant that there was something off.

After all, this was the king of this kingdom...if he just easily agreed to every condition that we had, it wouldn't make sense since that would go against his pride as the king.

So just what was his ploy here?

I slowly looked at him and waited for him to continue speaking, but the king just sat there in silence.

After a long while, he finally asked, "I heard that you also had your own mines."

When I heard this, I felt like this was it.

This was most likely what he was after.

If they were able to get some mines in the Dwarven Kingdom, that would without a doubt be a large card for the future. If they had these mines, they would be able to start messing around in the Dwarven Kingdom and seeing if they could take down the Dwarven Kingdom.

Of course, that was something that I couldn't go along with, so I had every intention of rejecting this.

But before I could say a thing, the king said, "We'll buy the ores that you sell from those mines that you own at the same price as the other ores. That is as long as you are willing to sell."

I once again was caught off guard since I never expected him to say this.

After coming back to my senses, I carefully looked at the king and it didn't seem like he was kidding.

It seemed like he really was planning on going through with this.

But why?

It just didn't make any sense.

Seeing that i was just staring at him without saying anything, the king ignored my caution and continued by saying, "As for the workers for transporting these goods..."

He didn't finish his sentence and picked up the piece of paper to look at it again.

"Ah, so that's how it is." I said to myself.

He was giving me all this just so he could argue for sending his own people to the Dwarven Kingdom.

All the material goods meant nothing as long as he was able to get people into the Dwarven Kingdom.

So that must be the reason why he had accepted all those conditions that easily.

But once again, before I was able to say anything, the king said, "Scar has already submitted your proposal and I agree with it. You will be in charge of the transport and we'll be in charge of security."

lightsNovel ?om My chin dropped as I looked at the king.

This was basically agreeing to all my conditions without saying a single thing.

This was the dream condition...

So why was it happening?

Then the atmosphere changed as the king narrowed his eyes to look at me before saying, "What is your play here?"

Chapter 395 Are you an enemy?

I couldn't help being taken aback and revealing a confused look when I heard this.

My play?

What did he mean by that?

I didn't have a play here, I was just trying to find a way to lay low while getting the things that I wanted.

So I really couldn't understand just what he meant by this.

The king saw that I didn't respond at all, so he gave a sigh and said, "Do you know why I've agreed to all of your terms?"

I was even more surprised when I heard this, but I slowly shook my head.

The king calmly looked at me and said, "It's because I can't see through you at all."

There was only confusion on my face as I asked, "What do you mean by that?"

The king took a deep breath and said without answering my question, "Normally, I feel like I have a good judge of character. I feel that I'm able to see through people without much trouble. That is how I'm able to maintain my rule and keep the peace of the kingdom."

The way that he said this, it almost seemed like he was bragging about himself.

But I knew that it wouldn't just be that.

After a long pause, he narrowed his eyes to look at me as he said, "But you're one that I can't see through at all. As such, I consider you dangerous."

My chin dropped the moment I heard this as I looked at the king in shock.

It opened and closed a few more times as I didn't know what to say in this situation.

After all, a single wrong word would mean being in danger.

If I said the wrong thing and was considered dangerous, that would be bad for me.

No, it wouldn't just be bad, it would be considered disastrous.

After all, the other side was the king of this kingdom.

Having the king as an enemy was the worst thing that could happen.

If that happened, I would have no choice but to leave this kingdom and find a new place for me and my people.

If that was the case, it really was a good thing that I had made preparations in the Dwarven Kingdom.

But that was the worst case scenario.

After all, being chased out was not a good thing.

So after taking a moment to catch my thoughts, I looked at him and said, "I don't think that I present any danger at all."

The king gave a chuckle when he heard this before saying, "Why do you think that?"

Instead of answering, I responded with a question, "Why do you think that I present danger?"

The king gave another chuckle before narrowing his eyes in a cold manner and saying, "One, how about the fact that you've hidden your abilities like this?"

I gave a shrug and said, "I've never tried to hide anything. I just never had a chance to show off. You should know that I was a slave before, right?"

The king narrowed his eyes even more when he heard this.

He was the king, so how could he not know such a simple fact?

It would take him no time at all to dig up something like this.

It had also been included in the packet on Zwein that had been presented to him when he joined Shadow Garden.

So he did know about this.

Only, he didn't understand why he would bring this up now.

Seeing the look on his face, I continued by saying, "As a slave, I never had a chance to use my abilities. If it wasn't for the fact that Rose saved me, then I would have been a slave even now."

This time, it wasn't just the king who narrowed his eyes to look at me.

Scar and Shaka also had strange looks on their faces as they looked at me.

It was clear that they never expected me to bring this up.

After a moment of silence, the king said, "Are you an enemy of our kingdom or are you an ally? Do you have any ill intentions towards us?"

It was a very simple question, but the meaning behind it was very heavy.

But the way that he asked it...was so casual...

After a moment of being surprised, I calmly said, "I have no ill intentions towards this kingdom. It is where the people that I care about live and the place that I call home."

The king narrowed his eyes to look at me, but I didn't flinch under this gaze.

I looked right back at him and met his gaze as he looked at me.

After a long silence, the king suddenly gave a nod and said, "Alright, I'll trust you then."

He suddenly stood up and said, "We'll keep the terms as agreed upon."

Without even waiting for an answer, he turned around and started heading to the door.

I couldn't help letting out a secret sigh of relief when I heard this.

At the very least, I had weathered the storm for now.

What the future held was uncertain, but I was safe for now and I took that as a victory.

But I wasn't able to remain relaxed for long.

"What are you doing? Are you not coming?"

I suddenly heard that coming from the door and looked to see the king looking back at us.

He waved his hand and said, "Let's go."

Then he turned to leave without looking back.

We just looked at each other with confused looks before standing up to follow the king out.

As we walked through the halls of the castle, we recognized the way that we were going.

It seemed like we were heading back to the throne room.

But why were we heading back there?

All of the ministers had already left, so there was no reason for us to go back there.

Or at least that was what I thought.

When we arrived, I found that there were still many ministers who were waiting in the throne room.

Chapter 396 Another rank

There were a few ministers that were gone, but most of the ones that had been here before were still standing around.

As soon as they saw us come in, they immediately took their places like before.

The king just ignored all of them as he walked right up to the throne and sat down.

Then while sitting there, he waved his hand at me as if telling me to come forward.

I looked at Scar and Shaka, but both of them just stood where they were standing. They were giving gestures as if telling me to go up to the throne.

I could also see the ministers looking at me with different expressions.

It was clear that I was the center of attention.

So I had no choice but to move in front of the throne.

Once I was there, I knelt down and waited for the king to give his orders.

The king just raised his hand and said, "Rise."

With that, I stood back up and looked up at the king sitting there on his throne.

The king looked around the room before saying, "I have called you all back here for one reason."

All of the ministers knitted their brows when they heard this and they all turned to look back at me.

Seeing this situation, they all knew that it was related to me, but they had no idea what was going to come.

I had given them quite a few surprises today, this was not something that they would forget so easily. So they were naturally all curious what other surprise I would give them now.

After a pause, the king continued by saying, "I'm sure that all of you know that we've had a dwarven ambassador arrive in our capital city today."

All of the ministers couldn't help revealing bitter smiles when they heard this.

How could they forget this?

It had just happened not that long ago, it was impossible that they would already forget about this.

After another pause, the king continued by saying, "The one who brought this group of ambassadors is the one in front of you right now. It is our own Viscount Zwein."

None of the ministers were surprised since they had already heard what Elsa had said and seen that they had come with him.

They all already knew this.

But they couldn't help wondering why the king had suddenly brought this up.

lightsNovel ?om The king waited for a bit before saying, "For this merit, we naturally need to reward Viscount Zwein."

The moment that his voice fell, everyone couldn't help knitting their brows.

That included me as I could guess what was about to happen.

One of the ministers couldn't help stepping forward and saying, "Your majesty, while this is a large merit, this is something that should be done as a noble of this kingdom. Is there really a need for..."

Before he could finish his words, the king suddenly narrowed his eyes to glare at him.

The moment that this minister saw this glare fall into him, he immediately bowed his head as if he didn't dare stare at him.

After glaring down this minister, the king said, "So are you suggesting that we ignore the merit that Viscount Zwein has performed? Or are you saying that you are doubting our judgement?"

The minister trembled once more when he heard this, but he didn't dare say anything.

The king's eyes swept over the rest of the ministers and none of them dared to meet his gaze.

The king was fully releasing his aura as he said this, almost turning into a completely different person.

After a long silence, the king finally said, "Then it seems like there's no one else who has an objection to this."

At this point, it was impossible for any of them to have an objection.

All of the ministers were actually shocked by how this had developed.

None of them had thought that the king would be this adamant over this matter.

If the king really insisted on this, there really wasn't anything that they could do about this.

But the one that felt the most bitter about this was...me.

I didn't want any of this in the first place, but now I had no choice in this matter.

Especially after the display that the king had just given.

If I were to say anything now...

After he said this, the king looked back at me and said, "For his merit, we shall be honouring Viscount Zwein with a special reward."

He waved his hand at the servant beside him and that servant came forward to bring a scroll on a pillow forward.

That servant came right up in front of me and presented that scroll to me.

I hesitantly took it, but I still took it in the end.

Seeing that I took it, the king gave a nod as if he was telling me to open it and read it.

I slowly opened it up and couldn't help revealing a bitter smile when I saw what was written.

It was another rank.

This time, I was being raised from a Viscount to a Count.

This was the piece of paper that had the king's decree for that.

After seeing that I had opened it up, the king said, "For his merits this time, we shall grant Viscount Zwein the rank of Count."

When they heard this, all of the ministers revealed bitter looks on their faces.

They had also expected this, but the looks on their faces were better than before.

They had thought that the king would go much further than this, but a count...that was something that they could accept.

After he said this, the king looked at me as if he was expecting something.

I had no choice but to bow to him and say, "Thank you, your majesty for this honour. I shall not let down the responsibilities that come with this title."

After saying this, I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile while my face was hidden.

Chapter 397 Another surprise

There was applause that followed after I received my title.

Though it was definitely considered weak for the amount of people that were here.

It was clear that they weren't enthusiastic about this.

In fact, most people looked like they would rather eat a pound of shit than to watch this.

But since this was what the king had decided, there was nothing that they could do.

In this kingdom, he was the absolute authority. If he decided to do something, there was nothing that anyone could do.

So they could only just accept it while planning their next move.

I could guess what most of them were thinking judging by the way that they were looking at me.

If my guesses were correct, they would try to contact me when this was all over.

Their goal?

To see if they could establish a trade with the dwarves through me.

But Haley had expected this and had thought of a plan for me.

lightsnovel.com Throw it to the king.

He would receive half of the trade, so we would let him deal with the rest of the nobles. We would only trade with those that we had already created a relationship with and those that we had to trade with.

Namely, the princes.

It would be a whole mess later on...

But right now, the mess in front of me still isn't over yet.

Once the applause died down, the king wasn't done yet.

He raised his hand for everyone to fall silent before saying, "Before we disperse, there's one more thing for me to announce."

The moment that he said this, all of them immediately knitted their brows and focused their minds.

If it was another surprise...they really wouldn't be able to handle it...

But there was nothing that they could do if he had already made a decision.

So the only thing that they could do was try their best to minimize the damage.

The king gave a pause before saying, "I'm sure that you are all aware of the situation with the Dwarven Kingdom."

All of them revealed bitter smiles when they heard this.

How could they forget?

It had been less than an hour since they had met with the dwarven ambassadors. If they had actually forgotten, then wouldn't there be something wrong with their brains?

But why was he bringing this up?

A few of them looked at me with thoughtful looks.

"Could it be that something had changed while the king had talked with him?"

The king gave another dramatic pause while all this happened before he finally said, "In response to this matter, I have deemed it necessary to create a new position to make it easier to negotiate with the Dwarven Kingdom later on."

All of the ministers were surprised to hear this, but they all slowly gave nods in agreement to this.

After all, the future relationship with the dwarves was something that they all regarded as something important.

They all wanted a part of this for the future.

After all, ore was one thing that they were lacking in this country.

After a moment of silence, the ministers all looked at each other as if they were preparing to fight each other over this position.

But what they didn't know was that the king had already prepared who he wanted to take this position.

He looked down at me and I could already guess what was about to happen.

Before I could say anything, the king raised his hand and said, "I hereby decree that Count Zwein will be named our ambassador to the Dwarven Kingdom. All matters related to the Dwarven Kingdom will fall under his jurisdiction."

The moment that he said this, everyone once again turned to look at me.

This time, the looks in their eyes were not as kind as before.

This time, it was clear that they were angry with me for this.

After all, they all wanted to take this position for themselves to benefit from the Dwarven Kingdom.

And now I had taken it without them being able to do a thing.

It would be strange if they accepted it easily.

After a moment of silence, the ministers looked like they were about to say something.

It wasn't just a single minister that wanted to speak up, it was multiple ministers that seemed like they wanted to say something.

But once again, before they could say anything, the king spoke, "For those of you that doubt this, I only have one thing to say. Can you do the same thing he can?"

As soon as his voice fell, all of them revealed shocked looks.

It didn't take much thought to understand what the king was implying.

As such, they didn't know how to respond.

After all, there was truth in what he said.

Even if they wanted to, they wouldn't be able to achieve the same thing as Count Zwein.

They had all seen how the dwarves acted with him, so they knew that he had already built a relationship with them.

If they could do the same, they would have done it already.

But there was a reason why the dwarves hadn't formed relations with any human nations before this.

If it could be done that easily, they would have already done it.

Seeing the looks on the faces of these ministers, the king knew that they wouldn't do anything else, so he turned back to look at me and said, "Count Zwein, will you accept this post?"

The question that he asked was a rhetorical one.

Even if I wanted to refuse, it was impossible for me to refuse in this situation.

Not to mention, even if I did refuse, it wouldn't benefit me since it would just ruin the relationship between our kingdom and the dwarves. That would make it harder for my plan in the future.

So I had no choice but to accept this post.

With a sigh, I said, "I humbly accept this appointment."

The king gave a nod with a satisfied smile when he heard this.

The ministers...all looked at me with strange looks.

Chapter 398 Father and daughter again

My plan to put all the attention on the king completely failed.

The moment that he made me the ambassador, it was decided that I would be bothered by the nobles looking to request things from the dwarves.

I was able to keep them back for now by giving the excuse that I would need to meet with the dwarves first before discussing anything.

But I was certain that I would be seeing plenty of nobles in the next period of time.

I just hoped that I would be able to escape to my territory soon enough...

Once I was there in my remote territory, it would be hard for these important ministers and nobles that needed to stay in the capital to bug me.

They might send the occasional letter, but that was still better than them following me around.

But for now, it would be a mess for me...

...

After returning to his room, he found that there was someone waiting there for him.

This girl who had been sitting there drinking some tea suddenly stood up when she saw him come in.

She revealed a smile and ran over with her arms raised as she said, "Father, you're finally back."

The man revealed a smile when he saw her running over and he picked her up in his arms before placing a kiss on her cheek.

After the two of them bonded for a bit, the man put her down and they sat down together to enjoy the tea that had been prepared.

The most eye-catching part about the two of them were the crowns that were on their heads.

The king looked at the princess and said, "So are you here to ask about him?"

When she heard this, she couldn't help jolting before lowering her head in a shy manner.

She didn't say anything and there seemed to be a blush that appeared on her face, but she slowly gave a nod after being silent for a bit.

The king revealed a faint smile and slowly shook his head before saying, "Once you find love, you completely forget about your family."

The princess immediately shook her head before saying, "Of course I wouldn't forget about my family. It's just that..."

Her voice trailed off as she lowered her head again with that same shy look.

The king shook his head with a sigh before saying, "He's fine, he even received another title."

When she heard this, she immediately looked up with an excited look and said, "Really?"

The king gave a nod before giving another sigh and saying, "That kid really knows how to cause messes. Last time it was the elves and this time it is the dwarves. I really don't know what he'll bring back next time."

The princess couldn't help revealing a happy smile when she heard this before saying in a playful voice, "Maybe a giant, maybe a halfling, or maybe something else."

The king looked at her with an exasperated look when he heard this and he shook his head before saying, "It really is true. Once a girl has love, she completely forgets about her family."

The girl raised her hand and gently tapped his arm before saying, "It's not like that at all! Stop teasing me!"

The king gave a chuckle before saying, "Whatever it is, he really is giving me quite a few surprises. But that doesn't mean that they are all bad surprises. If we can really open up relations with the elves and the dwarves, our kingdom will be much stronger than before. When that time comes..."

As he said this, his voice trailed off and he couldn't help giving another sigh.

The princess didn't say anything, but the look on her face made it clear that she understood what he was going through.

As a princess, she naturally had an understanding of the kingdom's politics even if they did try to shield her from these things.

She knew what he was feeling anxious over, but she knew better than to interfere.

The only thing that she should do was...

The princess reached her hand out and patted her father on the arm.

The king took a deep breath before looking up at her with a smile as if saying that he was alright.

He changed the topic by saying, "So now that his rank has been raised, are you feeling more excited?"

The princess' face turned red again when she heard this before slowly giving a nod. But then after a pause, she also slowly shook her head.

The king knitted his brows when he saw this, but he knew why she had given this response.

It was because...of the power struggle right now.

The prince's were all trying to gain more power so that they could take the throne from him one day.

If the princess were to suddenly get engaged or even married, then it would surely affect this and the princes wouldn't remain idle.

When that time comes, they might even do something drastic to change the situation...

So for now, it was better if the princess remained idle like she had done all this time.

The king was silent for a long while before giving a sigh and saying, "You've been sneaking around with old fourth, haven't you?"

The princess jolted when she heard this.

When she was about to shake her head to deny this, the king said, "You don't need to deny it, it's not as if you're doing anything wrong. I know what the two of you are planning and I'm not saying that I'm against it."

Then the look in his eyes changed.

It went from the eyes of a king to the eyes of a concerned father, "Are you sure you'll be alright with this? If this plan succeeds..."

He didn't finish his sentence, but the meaning behind his words were clear.

The princess took a deep breath before saying, "Fourth brother has been determined since the beginning, There is no changing his mind once he sets it on something."

The king took a deep breath before letting it out and saying, "Old fourth has always been clever since he was a child...It's my fault for letting things develop like this that he would need to do this."

The princess revealed a sad smile, but she still patted the king's hand and said, "Father, fourth brother just wants to do what he can."

The king gave a nod without saying anything.

Chapter 399 Banquet for the dwarves

"Count Zwein, when you have the time, you must come to my territory and have a tour."

"No, no, if you have time, you must come to my territory. My daughter has been talking about you all this time and has been looking forward to meeting you."

"Your daughter? That girl that plays around? Count Zwein, you should come and meet my daughter."

Surrounded by these nobles, the only thing that I could do was give a polite smile and say, "If I have the time, I certainly will come and visit all of your territories."

The nobles didn't give up as they started talking about all the specialties of their territories.

As for why I was trapped like this, it was because this was a banquet for the dwarves.

This was a banquet that the king was holding to welcome the dwarven visitors and there were many nobles invited.

As the ambassador to the Dwarven Kingdom for our kingdom, I had no choice but to attend.

It wasn't just me who was surrounded by these nobles right now.

It was the same for the dwarves.

They were completely surrounded by nobles that were trying to build relations with them for their own benefits.

But...this was exactly what these dwarves hated about humans.

Other than Elsa who was surprisingly holding up well with these humans, the others all had looks on their faces like they wanted to die.

Elsa was the only one who was able to converse with all of these humans normally. She even seemed like she was having fun talking to these human nobles.

lightsnovel.com The only thing awkward for them was that they didn't know where to look when talking to her.

The dress that she wore definitely wasn't doing her any favours...

It took a long time before I finally got some free time.

The first thing that I did was...head to the buffet that had been laid out.

As soon as I arrived, I was swarmed by the nobles. Now that I finally had a free moment, I really needed to get some food before my stomach ate itself.

When I reached the buffet, I found that Elsa was also there and she had a plate filled with food.

When she saw me, she couldn't help revealing an awkward look.

As for why she felt embarrassed, it was because she had a large plate of food in her hand.

It was basically a mountain of food that she was holding, much more than one would think she would be able to eat.

In the end, she was a woman too and she was embarrassed to be caught like this.

But I didn't mind things like this.

In fact, I even felt that it was a bit cute how she acted.

But to sympathize with her, I also got a large plate of food before saying, "Shall we find a place to eat?"

Elsa revealed a surprised look before nodding with a smile.

The two of us made our way to a table of our own while everyone was distracted by the other dwarves.

These other dwarves were mainly blacksmiths who stayed out of things like politics, so they weren't used to things like this.

They were looking all around for anyone to help them...

After we made our way over to the table, we were able to hide ourselves with the mountain of food that we brought over.

As we ate, it was silent at first.

Then I couldn't help breaking through the silence by asking, "So how are you doing? Are you overwhelmed by being in human society?"

Elsa had her head down while she was eating, so she looked up when she heard this question.

The moment that I saw her face, I couldn't help revealing a smile.

That was because it really was a cute scene.

When she looked up, her cheeks were puffed out as it was filled with food and there was even a strand of spaghetti sticking out of her mouth.

It was like a little chipmunk with how she had all that food in her mouth.

Elsa was a bit stunned before she slowly realized what I was staring at and a blush came over her face.

She quickly swallowed the food in her mouth and then wiped her mouth with a napkin before saying, "It's alright. I used to interact with humans when I was working at the store."

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look when I heard this.

Elsa saw this look and explained, "Our store used to take orders from human countries. It was a way for us to earn money, though we didn't accept many orders each year."

I couldn't help knitting my brows when I heard this.

The anti human faction leader, Drogath was taking orders from human countries?

It definitely wasn't as simple as doing it for money...

He must have had ulterior motives...

There was a part of me that really wanted to ask about this, but I held myself back in the end. This was a matter for the dwarves to deal with, not for me.

The most that I should do is tell the Dwarven King about this.

After all, I could tell that Elsa had most likely not told her brother about this.

So the least I could do was make him aware of this.

Other than that, there wasn't much else for us to talk about.

We just talked about some random things that didn't really matter.

I found that Elsa was quite good at talking once she found her confidence. She wasn't shy and hesitant like before, she was able to hold the conversation quite well.

It should be said as expected of the Dwarven King's little sister, but it wasn't just that.

It was also her hard work, which I could admire.

But as we were having our fun talk, there was someone that suddenly cut in.

"What do you think you're doing?" A young voice suddenly said.

Chapter 400 Who Do You Think You Are? (1)

Both of us were caught off guard when we heard this and we turned to see a young man standing there.

This young man was clearly the son of some noble with the way that he was dressed.

Not to mention that this was a special banquet held to welcome the dwarven ambassadors, so unless he had some kind of status, he wouldn't have been invited to this banquet in the first place.

But if he wasn't a fool, then he wouldn't have called me out like this.

Seeing that I wasn't saying anything, the young noble came forward and said, "I asked you, what do you think you're doing? Do you know what this place is?"

I couldn't help revealing a faint smile when I heard him say this.

After all, he just sounded like a typical little villain with the way that he was speaking.

He sounded like someone that would be taught a lesson right away and would lose everything that he held dear because of a mistake.

It was just too much like the small villains that I had read about before.

But the young man mistook the smile that appeared on my face.

"What are you smiling at? Do you really think that you're that special?" The young man's face twisted a bit in anger as he said this.

I just raised my hands in an innocent manner and said, "This friend, I'm not trying to cause any trouble."

"Trouble?" The young man gave a snort when he heard this before giving a cold chuckle, "Who do you think you are? Do you really think that you're even worthy of that word?"

I couldn't help slightly knitting my brows when I heard this.

At this point, it was clear that this young man was trying to pick a fight with me.

But why would he do that?

I didn't know who this young man even was, so there shouldn't have been a reason for him to pick a fight with me like this.

However, his actions that came after made it clear why he was doing this.

He just ignored me as I was trying to figure out what was happening and came over to Elsa sitting there with a concerned look.

He gave a slight bow before saying, "Young miss, you don't have to worry anymore. I'll take care of this scoundrel bothering you."

As he said this, he also peeked at Elsa with eyes that held a bit of lust.

When he made it this obvious, it was impossible to miss.

He was just using me as an excuse to approach Elsa and get closer to her. At the same time, it was clear that he wanted more than just a casual relationship with her.

This young noble most likely thought that he was being so clever sacrificing this person that he didn't recognize...but he never would have thought that he would kick a steel plate...

After all, I had a status that was second to none at this banquet. I think you should take a look at lightsnovel.com

If it was anywhere else, I wouldn't have this status, but here I was invincible.

Elsa pulled herself away from this young man and completely ignored him even though he was clearly coming onto her.

The young man didn't seem to notice this at all as he reached his hand towards her.

But before he could reach her, I came forward and grabbed his hand.

The moment that this young man saw this, his face twisted in anger once again as he glared at me.

It was clear that he was very unhappy with me for ruining his good thing.

He immediately flicked my hand away and pointed at me as he said, "Who do you think you are? Acting this way at the royal banquet? And even trying to force this lady to go with you? Do you even have anyone in your eyes anymore?"

As he said this, he deliberately raised his voice so that everyone around us could hear what he was saying.

It seemed that he wanted to use the opinion of the public to crush me.

As he had wanted, the attention of the nobles around us were attracted because of his loud voice.

They all turned to see what the commotion was, but when they saw who was in the center of the commotion...

They all revealed bitter smiles and looks of sympathy.

The young man saw that everyone was looking in our direction and it seemed like they were focused on this matter, so he didn't hold back as he continued to slander me.

"At a banquet held by his majesty, you're even trying to have your way with our guests of honour. Do you feel no shame?"

The young man said in a self righteous voice as if he was the hero in this situation.

He also turned back to Elsa and said, "Young miss, please don't worry about a thing. I will take care of this ruffian for you."

Then in a more smooth voice, he said, "If you don't mind, how about we have some dinner at a later date?" While saying this, he turned his face as if he was trying to show off the good side of his face.

But when Elsa saw this, all she could do was reveal a look like she was looking at a fool.

But then again, this young man was nothing more than a fool as he fooled himself into thinking that this was just her way of acting shy.

He thought that to make that final push, he would need to show off a bit more.

So he reached for his sword and pulled it out to point it in my face before saying, "For tarnishing the honour of this young miss, I challenge you to a duel. Do you dare accept, you coward?"

He had a smug look on his face as he said this.

It was as if he could already see things going his way.